SEA CHANGE CHURCH

THE CURRENT

The Church Has Left the Building · S1E4

Priscilla & Aquila

A 7-Day Study

"After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks."

Acts 18:1–4 ESV

Pastor Adam Stadtmiller · August 16, 2026

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."

Proverbs 16:9

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Each week, The Current walks through a piece of Sunday's passage: a short verse study, encouragement, journal questions, and a daily prayer.

Take one day at a time. There's no need to rush.

DAY 1

What Looked Like Displacement

> **ACTS 18:1-2 ESV**
> *"After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome."*

VERSE STUDY

Priscilla and Aquila were an ordinary working couple with a business in Rome, seemingly stable, until Emperor Claudius ordered every Jew out of the city. No warning, no vote, just an edict that ended their life there overnight. Pastor Adam pointed out this wasn't a one time event: over a hundred times in history, the Jewish people have been forced from one place to another, and no people group has been displaced more.

For so many people, displacement means despair. It's the kind of moment that can pull someone away from their values, into blame or a lifestyle they'd never have chosen otherwise, because the compass point feels gone. Priscilla and Aquila had every reason to feel that way. They packed up a life and a business and moved to a city they hadn't chosen, for a reason they hadn't chosen either.

But Acts records what they couldn't have seen yet: their displacement put them exactly where Paul was. Pastor Adam summarized it this way: "What looked like displacement became divine placement." Without that expulsion order, we may never have heard of this couple at all. They wouldn't have met Paul, wouldn't be mentioned six times in Scripture, and wouldn't have become two of the most influential ordinary believers in the New Testament.

If you're in a season that feels like displacement, a job loss, a move you didn't ask for, a relationship or plan that ended without your permission, this story doesn't promise it won't hurt. It promises the story isn't over.

TAKE HEART

You may be carrying something right now that looks nothing like a plan: a sudden change, a door that closed, a place you didn't choose to be in. Priscilla and Aquila's story is proof that God doesn't waste displacement. He has never wasted a crisis in your life, and He isn't wasting this one either.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where in your life right now does it feel like something has been taken from you or moved without your permission?
2. Looking back at a past season of displacement, can you now see any way it became divine placement?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse: read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, I don't always understand why things change the way they do. Sometimes it feels less like Your plan and more like something was simply taken from me. Help me trust that You are not surprised by what has displaced me, and that You are already establishing my steps even when I cannot see the path. Give me the faith to keep walking toward You instead of away from You when life doesn't go the way I expected. Root me in Your character instead of my circumstances. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Write down one thing in your life right now that feels like displacement. Underneath it, write one way God might be using it for something you can't yet see.

NOTES

DAY 2

The Lord Establishes Your Steps

> **PROVERBS 16:9 ESV**
> *"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."*

VERSE STUDY

Pastor Adam said he loves the word "establishes" in this verse. You can plan your way, you can map it out, budget it, schedule it, but the Lord is the one who actually establishes where your feet land. Picture it like this: when you put your foot down to take a step, He puts His hands around that foot and moves it into the soil, deep enough that you are rooted in that exact place.

This doesn't mean your plans don't matter. It means your plans were never meant to carry the full weight of your future. Priscilla and Aquila likely had plans for their life and business in Rome. Those plans ended. What replaced them wasn't a backup plan they came up with; it was a placement only God could have arranged.

If you've been through a season where your steps were established somewhere you never planned to go, you already know this verse isn't abstract. It's the difference between a life that ends at the moment of loss and a life that keeps moving because Something bigger than your plan is still working.

Stick with the Lord through the parts of the story you can't explain yet. Keep reading Scripture. Don't let a season of change become an excuse to walk away from the values you've built your life on.

TAKE HEART

You don't have to have the next step figured out today. The same God who established Priscilla and Aquila's steps toward Corinth, toward Paul, toward a legacy mentioned six times in Scripture, is establishing yours.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. What is one plan you're currently holding onto tightly? What would it look like to hold it with an open hand?
2. Can you name a time God established your steps somewhere your own plan never would have taken you?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse: read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, I plan my way, but You establish my steps, and I need to remember the difference. Thank You that my future doesn't rest on how well I can plan it. Help me hold my plans loosely and trust Your hand more than my own map. When I put my foot down in uncertainty, root me deep in the place

You've called me to. Give me patience for the steps I don't yet understand and gratitude for the ones I can already see. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Before you make any decisions today, pause and ask God to establish your steps rather than just approve your plan.

NOTES

DAY 3

Ordinary Work, Whole Integrity

> **ACTS 18:3 ESV**
> *"And because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade."*

VERSE STUDY

Paul didn't meet Priscilla and Aquila in a synagogue service or a spiritual conversation. He met them at work, over the same trade: tentmaking. Pastor Adam pointed out something worth sitting with: tents show up early in Scripture as the place where God's presence dwelt with Israel in the wilderness. Paul, a tentmaker, ends up building a friendship and a partnership in ministry over the very craft that echoes that history.

He used the word integrity to describe what made their lives work: the idea that every part fits together and none of it is out of place. He compared it to the heat tiles on a space shuttle. Each one has to be exactly where it belongs, because if even one is out of place, the whole system overheats. Integrity isn't a single dramatic choice. It's being the same person at work on a Tuesday afternoon that you are on a Sunday morning.

For Priscilla and Aquila, work was never separate from faith. It wasn't a place they clocked into and set their beliefs aside. It was one of the primary places their faith got worked out, quite literally, with their hands. That's worth asking of your own life: is your faith one section of your week, or is it woven through all of it?

What can you do to change your workplace, your kitchen table, your retirement, whatever ordinary space you're in? It doesn't require a spotlight. Pastor Adam's advice: shine the light, don't blind people. A small, consistent presence of faith in an ordinary space can do more than a single grand gesture ever could.

TAKE HEART

Whatever your version of tentmaking is, your job, your home, your everyday routine, it isn't separate from your faith. It's one of the most consistent places you get to practice it.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where in your life is there a gap between who you are on Sunday and who you are the rest of the week?
2. What's one small, non dramatic way you could bring your faith into an ordinary space this week?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse: read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, I don't want my faith to live in one corner of my life while the rest of it runs on its own. Help me be the same person in every room I walk into, at work, at home, and everywhere in between. Where there are pieces of my life out of place, realign them with who You've called me to be. Give me the wisdom to shine light without blinding people, and the consistency to let my ordinary spaces reflect You. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Pick one ordinary space, your desk, your kitchen, your car, and do one small, specific thing this week that reflects your faith there.

NOTES

DAY 4

A Church in Their House

> **ROMANS 16:3-5 ESV**
>
> *"Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also the church in their house."*

VERSE STUDY

By the time Paul writes Romans, years after Corinth, he's still greeting this couple by name, twice in three verses. Paul calls her Prisca here, a shorter form of her name; Luke calls her Priscilla in Acts. Same woman, same partnership, still showing up in Paul's letters near the end of his ministry.

Making Jesus known wasn't confined to one part of their life. Acts 18 shows them at work with Paul. Later chapters show them on the road with him, leaving Corinth for Ephesus. Here in Romans, it shows them at home, hosting a church in their own house, and apparently taking enough risk on Paul's behalf that he says they "risked their necks" for his life.

They never waited for permission to start something. There's no record of them checking with an apostle before opening their home to a gathering of believers. Pastor Adam pushed back on what he called a "bottleneck mentality," the idea that nothing counts unless a pastor blesses it first. Priscilla and Aquila just went for it, in their own house, with their own hospitality.

Notice what Paul adds: "all the churches of the Gentiles" give thanks for them. Their willingness to open an ordinary home turned into something that reached churches they likely never met. You don't always get to see how far your ordinary faithfulness travels.

TAKE HEART

You don't need a title or an official green light to make your home, your table, or your relationships a place where Jesus is made known. Priscilla and Aquila didn't wait for permission, and neither should you.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. What would it look like for your home or your everyday relationships to function like "a church in their house," a place people encounter Jesus?
2. Is there something you've been waiting for permission to start that you could simply begin?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse: read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, thank You for Priscilla and Aquila's example of a faith that showed up at work, on the road, and at home, all without waiting to be told it counted. I want that kind of consistency. Make my

home a place where people encounter You, even in ordinary, unofficial ways. Give me courage to start what You've already given me permission to start. And let whatever faithfulness I offer in private reach further than I'll ever get to see. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Invite someone into your home or your life this week, even informally, with the specific intention of pointing them toward Jesus.

NOTES

DAY 5

Gifted, But Not Yet Complete

> **ACTS 18:24-25 ESV**
> *"Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John."*

VERSE STUDY

Apollos wasn't a beginner. He was eloquent, well trained in Scripture, and fervent in spirit. Whatever his version of natural talent and preparation was, he had it. He was already teaching accurately about Jesus, boldly, in public, in the synagogue.

And yet he was missing something. He only knew the baptism of John, not the fuller picture of what Jesus had done and what the Holy Spirit now offered. Gifted and fervent doesn't automatically mean complete. Sometimes the people with the most obvious potential are also the ones furthest along without realizing what they still don't know.

It would have been easy for Priscilla and Aquila to be intimidated by someone this articulate, or to assume a man that skilled didn't need their help. Instead they saw both the gift and the gap at the same time. That combination, recognizing real potential without ignoring what's incomplete, is exactly what let them help him grow instead of just admiring him from a distance.

Who in your life is a lot like Apollos: talented, sincere, further along than most, and still missing a piece they don't know they're missing? Seeing that clearly is the first step before you can do anything about it.

TAKE HEART

You don't have to wait for someone to have it all figured out before you invest in them. Priscilla and Aquila saw Apollos exactly as he was, gifted and incomplete, and loved him enough to help close the gap.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Who in your life reminds you of Apollos: gifted, sincere, and still missing something they don't yet see?
2. Has anyone ever seen a gap in you that you couldn't see in yourself? What did that feel like?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse: read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, thank You for the gifts You've placed in me, and thank You for the people who have been honest enough to show me what I still don't see. Help me hold my own gifting with humility instead of assuming I've arrived. And help me pay attention to the Apollos in my own life, someone talented and sincere who might just need someone willing to notice the gap. Give me eyes to see people the way Priscilla and Aquila saw him. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Think of one person you admire for their gifts. Pray specifically that God would show you if there's a way you could help them grow, not just admire them.

NOTES

DAY 6

Taken Aside, Not Torn Down

> **ACTS 18:26 ESV**
>
> *"He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."*

VERSE STUDY

Notice what Priscilla and Aquila didn't do. They didn't correct Apollos publicly, in the middle of the synagogue, in front of everyone he'd just spoken boldly to. They took him aside. Whatever conversation followed happened privately, over what Pastor Adam imagined as something like a cup of tea, not a public confrontation.

That's the definition of discipleship Pastor Adam offered: "Recognizing who someone can be in Christ and investing into that calling." It's not a debate about methodology. It's one person sitting across a table from another, using their time and their relationship to help someone become more of who God made them to be.

Apollos went on to become one of the most respected teachers in the early church, mentioned by Paul alongside his own name and Peter's as leaders people aligned themselves with. None of that erases the fact that his growth started with two ordinary tentmakers who cared enough to pull him aside instead of letting him keep teaching an incomplete gospel, or worse, tearing him down for it.

Discipleship, in this story, looks less like a program and more like hospitality: noticing someone's gifting, caring enough about their growth to have an uncomfortable conversation privately, and trusting that investment over confrontation.

TAKE HEART

If you see a gap in someone's understanding, your first move doesn't have to be public correction. Take them aside. Priscilla and Aquila's private, relational approach did more for Apollos than public criticism ever could have.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you took someone aside privately instead of correcting them publicly, or wished someone had done that for you?
2. What's one calling or gifting you can see in someone else that you could help develop, one conversation at a time?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse: read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, give me the humility to take people aside instead of tearing them down, and the courage to have private, honest conversations instead of staying silent. Help me see people the way Priscilla and Aquila saw Apollos: gifted, sincere, and worth investing in. If I'm the one with a gap I can't see, send someone patient enough to pull me aside too. Teach me that real discipleship looks like relationship, not correction from a distance. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

If there's someone you've been meaning to talk to privately, about their gifting or about a gap you've noticed, reach out and set up that conversation this week.

NOTES

DAY 7

One Ordinary Space

> **ACTS 18:4 ESV**
> *"And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks."*

VERSE STUDY

This verse is easy to skim past, but "every Sabbath" is the whole point. Paul's ministry in Corinth wasn't a single dramatic sermon. It was a consistent, weekly rhythm of showing up in the same place and doing the same faithful work, week after week, in partnership with a couple who made tents for a living.

Pastor Adam closed this series' final message with a personal challenge: identify one ordinary space God has given you, your home, your workplace, your business, your neighborhood, your relationships, and intentionally turn it into a space where you make Jesus known. Not a whole life overhaul. One space.

He also told a story about the people who took a risk on him when he'd given them every reason not to: a first grade teacher who took him in for two years, a mentor who invited him over weekly for home cooked meals, and a pastor who let him teach small portions of Bible study just a few weeks into his own sobriety. None of them waited for him to be finished. They saw potential and invested anyway.

Priscilla and Aquila's whole story started with an ordinary trade and an ordinary home, in a city they didn't choose. It closed with churches across the Gentile world giving thanks for them and a man named Apollos who became one of the most respected teachers in the early church. Ordinary space, given to God consistently, adds up to more than you can plan for.

TAKE HEART

You don't need a bigger platform or a different season of life to make Jesus known. You need one ordinary space and the willingness to show up there consistently, the way Priscilla and Aquila did.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. What is your one ordinary space, home, workplace, neighborhood, or relationship, that you sense God inviting you to intentionally turn toward Him?
2. Looking back over this whole week, what's the one thing you want to carry forward from Priscilla and Aquila's story?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse: read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, thank You for this week and for the example of two ordinary people who let You use their trade, their home, and their relationships to make You known. I don't need a bigger stage. I need faithfulness in the one space You've already given me. Show me clearly what that space is, and give me the consistency to show up there the way Paul showed up in the synagogue every Sabbath. Let my ordinary life be fully available to You. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Name your one ordinary space out loud or in writing, and take one concrete step this week to intentionally make Jesus known there.

NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.”

Proverbs 16:9

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